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BIG TIME

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

RAMOS 10
delgado

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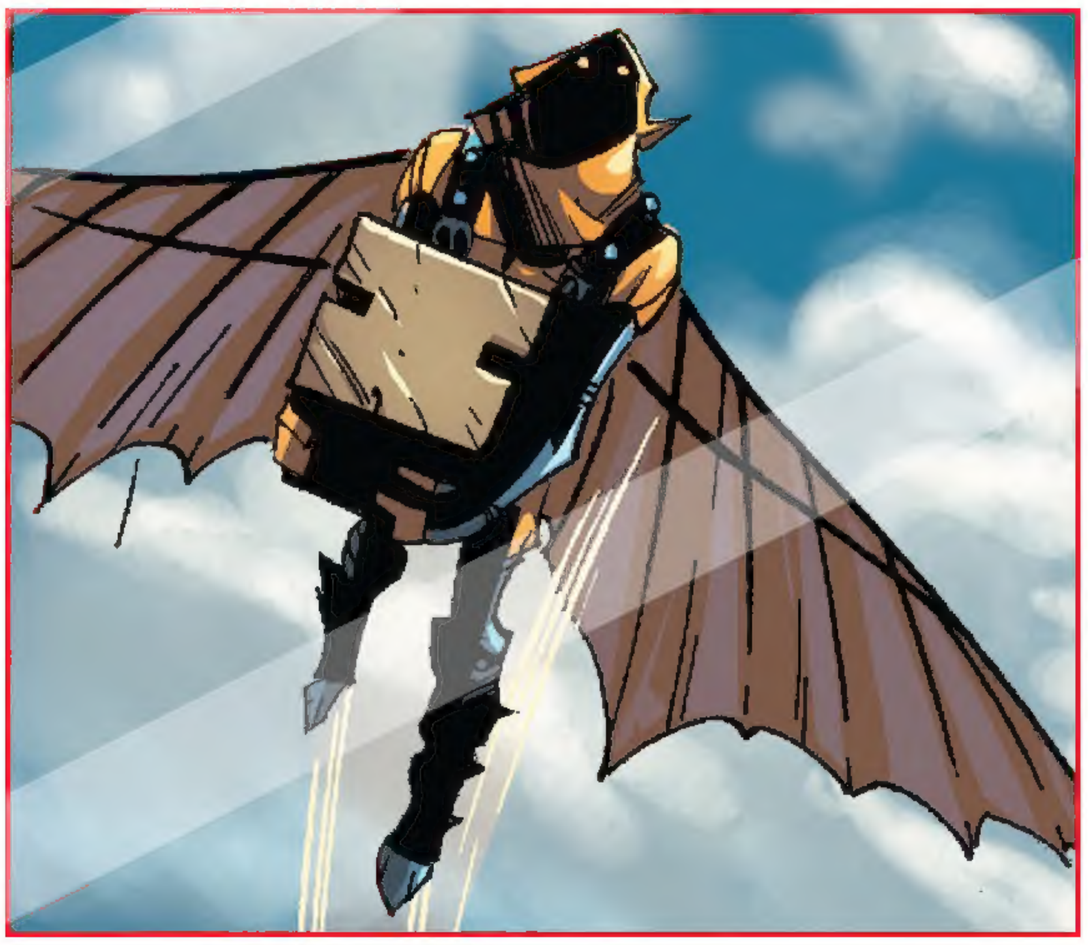
HORIZON

DAILY BUGLE

TOP STORY

HOBGOBLIN HORROR AT HORIZON LABS!



by NORAH WINTERS

Something more than exciting new technology came out of Horizon Labs yesterday when the think tank was attacked by the Hobgoblin! Spider-Man managed to fend him off with some help from Horizon's in-house geniuses, but the Hobgoblin was seen escaping with a large chunk of mysterious metal. (Horizon's newest genius hire—former Daily Bugle freelance photographer Peter Parker—was nowhere to be found.) Sources say that this Hobgoblin is unlike any Spider-Man has faced before. Is it just a new batch of toys or is there a new man behind the mask?...

(See full story with exclusive footage courtesy of Phil Urich)

JAILBREAK

Mac Gargan escaped from the raft with the help of Alistair Smythe, also known as the Spider-Slayer. Both men are still believed to be...

SOCIETY

Mayor Jonah Jameson and his wife Marla appeared at a charity gala at the Fisk Building last week.

VIRAL VIDEO

Black Cat claws the gossip from a Goblin Goon (exclusive footage courtesy of Phil Urich)

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The Rooftop of The Fisk Building.

A LEGITIMATE HOLDING OF WILSON FISK, THE KINGPIN OF CRIME.

JUS' WHAT DO YA THINK YOU'RE DOIN', HOBGOBLIN?

WHEN Y'ALL WORK FOR KINGPIN, HE CALLS *YOU*. YOU NEVER SHOW UP UNANNOUNCED.

AWW. BUT, MONTANA...

I BROUGHT **PIE!**

OKAY. LYING ABOUT THE PIE. BUT TRUST ME...

...THE FAT MAN'S GONNA WANT A ***SLICE*** OF WHAT I AM BRINGING 'IM.

OH, MIGHTY LORD AND MASTER, I BRING THEE TIDINGS--

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE. I WILL NOT SUFFER FOOLS, GOBLIN. NOT IN MY EMPLOY. OUT WITH IT.

WHAT? I'M TRYING TO BE ***PROFESSIONAL***. WHEN I STEAL SOMETHING FOR SOMEBODY, I EXPECT IT TO ***STAY*** STOLEN.

WHAT?

THAT BIG HUNK A' METAL...

I HEAR SPIDER-MAN AND THE BLACK CAT ARE GONNA TRY TO SNATCH IT BACK. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO *MY* SOURCES...

...THEY'RE ALREADY HE-E-E-ERE.

THAT'S BULL. I GOT NINJAS, TRAINED HAND ASSASSINS, OUR BEST BOYS FROM SHADOWLAND, CAMPED OUT.

NO WAY ANYONE'S GETTIN' IN.

SO? WHO YOU GONNA BELIEVE? ME? OR SHERIFF WOODY HERE?

PREPOSTEROUS.

SUBBASEMENT, COME IN. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE *REVERBIUM*?

TIBERIUS STONE HERE, MR. FISK. EVERYTHING'S ACES.

IT SHOULD BE READY TO SHOW TO THOSE MILITARY CONTRACTORS TOMORROW.

AS YOU CAN SEE, MY CONTAINMENT GRID'S KEEPING IT IN CHECK...

...LIKE I *KNEW* IT WOULD. IF THE OTHER GUYS AT HORIZON HAD LISTENED TO ME...

...THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A PROBLEM WITH THIS STUFF IN THE FIRST PLA--

BYOOP

STONE?! REPORT!

WHOOPSIE. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE DIDN'T PAY THE CABLE BILL. **HA HA!**

...AAAND ALL CAMERA FEEDS IN THE LOWER LEVELS HAVE BEEN CUT.

NO ONE CAN CALL FOR HELP...

...AND NO ONE WILL SEE US COMING.

UM, CAT...

OKAY, SCRATCH THAT. NO ONE WILL SEE *ME* COMING. HAPPY?

NO. IT'S NOT THAT. BEHIND YOU...

NEVER MIND. I GOT IT.

THWAK

THOK

‹WHAT?! WHO'S THERE?!›

OKAY, HERE'S ONE...

HOW MANY HAND ASSASSINS DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB?

WHAM

PAK

YOU CAN STOP CRACKING WISE, SPIDER.

WHEN YOU'RE IN THAT STEALTH SUIT, THANKS TO THIS EARPIECE AND THESE GOGGLES...

...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO *CAN* SEE AND HEAR YOU.

KRAKK

I KNOW.

THESE GAGS ARE FOR *YOUR* BENEFIT.

SPARE ME.

FINE. SO? HOW DO I LOOK?

HONESTLY? LIKE AN AD FOR THE NEW TRON MOVIE.

CUTE.

C'MON. ENOUGH FOOLING AROUND.

LET'S GET OUR HANDS ON THE *REVERBIUM*...

"...BEFORE WE RUN INTO ANY MORE OF THE KINGPIN'S GOONS."

THAT METAL CAN BE CONVERTED INTO ONE OF THE DEADLIEST FORCES ON EARTH.

IT REPRESENTS ***BILLIONS*** OF DOLLARS IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS...

...FOR ***WHICHEVER*** GOVERNMENT I CHOOSE. IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, GOBLIN...

OH, YOU'LL SEE, BIG GUY. JUST WAIT...

...AWW, WHO AM I KIDDIN'? I *HATE* WAITING.

KRUNGG

ERRR ERRR ERRR ERRR ERRR

REAL SLICK. Y'ALL JUST SET OFF THE ALARM. NOW IF ANYONE *IS* THERE, THEY'LL KNOW WE'RE ONTO 'EM!

YEAH, TEX? AND IF SOMEONE *IS* THERE...

...THAT MEANS I TRIPPED YOUR ALARM AND THEY *DIDN'T*.

REEEAL TIGHT SHIP YOU'RE RUNNING HERE, PAL!

FOR A GIBBERING IDIOT, HE HAS A POINT.

BEFORE TWO DAYS AGO, THIS FELLA WAS A ***NOBODY***. BUT NOW HE'S GOT "*SOURCES*."

I'M TELLIN' YA, BOSS, IF BLACK CAT AND THE WEB-SWINGER ***ARE*** POKIN' AROUND...

ERRR ERRR ERRR ERRR ERRR ERRR ERRR

"...IT'S PROBABLY 'CAUSE THAT MANIAC'S THE ONE WHO TIPPED 'EM OFF!"

WELL, WE'RE HERE. BUT *THAT'S* NOT GOOD. DID *WE* TRIGGER THAT?

WHAT NOW? THIS IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE. DO WE PRESS ON OR--

FELICIA?

SUNNUVA BISCUIT! SHE DID IT TO ME AGAIN. THIS IS SNEAKING INTO MR. NEGATIVE'S HEADQUARTERS ALL OVER!

CAT!

SORRY, SPIDER. MISSION'S A SCRUB.

WHERE ARE YOU?!

TAKING THE EXPRESS TO THE TOP.

THAT VAULT IS GONNA BE SWARMING WITH GUARDS. SO I'M GOIN' WHERE THEY *WON'T* BE.

THE PENTHOUSE. TO HELP MYSELF TO SOME OF WILSON FISK'S PRIVATE LI'L TREASURES.

I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE *PARTNERS!*

SURE, SURE. BY THE BY, PARTNER, QUICK HEADS-UP...

...HOBGOBLIN AND THREE MORE NINJAS ARE COMING YOUR WAY.

THANKS, "*PARTNER.*" THAT'S *EXACTLY* THE KINDA TEAMWORK WE EXPECT--

--ON THE *AVENGERS!* RAZZIN' FRAZZIN'...

STILL CAN'T REACH MR. FISK.

SYSTEM'S STILL UP. SAFETIES ARE IN PLACE. LEAST THAT'S SOMETHING.

POP

STAY ALERT, THOUGH. WE'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING...

‹IT CANNOT BE!›

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

KTAM

‹YES. IT IS! A WARRIOR! A MASTER...›

‹...OF THE INVISIBLE ARTS!›

‹YAHH!›

THWIP!

ALL RIGHT, RED SHIRTS, LISTEN UP! CAT-GIRL'S YOURS. SLICE AND DICE HER INTO TENDER VITTLES FOR ALL I CARE.

BUT I'M HERE TO SUCK UP TO THE BOSS-MAN...

...SO THE WEB-HEAD IS ALL--

SPRING

OKAY. WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO BE?

‹A GHOST. A LEGEND. THE DIVINE WIND!›

NO, IT'S SOMEBODY SWINGING A GUY AROUND ON A *WEB!* AND THEY CALL ME CRAZY.

SPIDER'S GOT SOME NEW TRICKS. WELL, I KNOW HOW TO GET 'IM TO SHOW HIMSELF.

JUST GOTTA CRANK THINGS UP. SORRY FELLAS, BUT THIS ONE...

...IS GONNA BE A REAL *KILLER!*

‹GYAHH!›

HOBGOBLIN? AND HIS SONIC SCREAM--ON A HIGHER FREQUENCY THAN BEFORE!

AKK!

PIGGYBACKING ON THE WAVELENGTH I'M USING TO TALK TO CAT! SUIT'S SHORTING OUT!

I CAN SEE-EE-EE YOU! *HA HA*

THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS A DEBACLE!

OF *YOUR* MAKING!

YES, MR. FISK. BUT I SWEAR, SIR...

IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

NO ONE'S GETTING BY UNDER MY WATCH.

IS THAT SO? AND WHO'S SAYING I'M GIVING YOU A SECOND CHANCE--

--AND NOT JUST DUMPING YOU IN A LANDFILL IN STATEN ISLAND?!

MONTANA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

SORRY, KINGPIN. THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING.

FWIPP

WELL, LOOK AT THE *CAT* I DONE DRAGGED IN.

SP-SP-SP--

"SP-SPIDER..."

KLIK

NICE TRY! BUT I CAME PREPARED.

THIS SUIT'S GOT A SECONDARY MODE...

HA HA HA

...EVEN CAT IS MISSING OUT ON MY WACKY BANTER.

AND VICE VERSA.

HKK--

EASY THERE, DARLIN'...

...NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--

WHIPP

HEYYY!

KASHH

IDIOT.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO PUT A LEASH ON A CAT!

AND *THIS*, MS. HARDY, IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN UNWANTED STRAYS ARE ROUNDED UP. THEY GET *PUT DOWN.*

FISK!

AH! SPIDER? HELLO...?

"...I COULD REALLY USE SOME *HELP* UP HERE!"

LOOK AT YOU, WITH YOUR MASK FLAPPIN'. WELL, WHATEVER YOU'RE SAYING...

...I HOPE THEY'RE GOOD *LAST WORDS!* **HA HA!**

SPIDER-ISLAND

MR. HOBGOBLIN, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! MY EQUIPMENT!

KSHH

STOP!

MY SAFETY PROTOCOLS ARE THE ONLY THING KEEPING THE REVERBIUM IN CHECK!

TIK

A SPIDER-TRACER? NICE ONE, GENIUS.

NOW YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I AM. RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

LIKE THAT? IT'S A SPECIAL TREAT JUST FOR *YOU*, MADE OUT OF *ANTI-METAL.*

SOMEBODY'S JUST LOST HIS FAVORITE TOY.

ANTI-METAL (A.K.A. ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM) DESTROYS ALL METALS.--STEVE

SORRY? WHAT WAS THAT...?

"...YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEAK UP."

AHHH! Y-Y-YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT? FINE, *I'LL SAY IT!*

I NEED TO BE A TEAM PLAYER! OKAY?! NOW GET YOUR @#$% UP HERE!

YOU'RE IN CONTACT WITH THE WALL-CRAWLER, AREN'T YOU?

I HOPE YOU'RE LISTENING VERY CLOSELY, SPIDER-MAN.

I WANT YOU TO HEAR EVERY SOUND YOUR COMPANION MAKES AS I RIP HER LIMBS OFF.

GYAH!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

OHHH BOY! HOBBY, WHAT'VE YOU DONE?!

I'VE FELT THIS BEFORE! YOU AND THAT STUPID SONIC SCREAM OF YOURS--

--YOU'VE SET OFF THE *REVERBIUM!*

IT'LL BRING THIS WHOLE BUILDING DOWN! *AND* A COUPLE CITY BLOCKS!

HOW COULD FISK HAVE THIS DOWN HERE WITHOUT ANY SAFEGUARDS?!

HOBGOBLIN! WAIT! YOUR SCREAM STARTED THIS. IF WE MODIFY ITS PITCH...

...WE COULD SET UP A COUNTER-VIBRATION AND--

WHY ISN'T ANYBODY LISTENING TO ME?!

AH. RIGHT.

KLIK

YOU! TECH GUY! MAYBE THE TWO OF US CAN COME UP WITH A--

EXIT

AHHHH!

FINE! *BE* THAT WAY!

YOU'RE ALL JUST A BUNCH A' RATS LEAVING A SINKING SUBBASEMENT!

THAT SOUNDED SO MUCH BETTER IN MY HEAD.

HARD TO THINK WHEN A CHUNK A' DOOMSDAY METAL'S ABOUT TO SHAKE A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN!

OKAY, I CAN'T STOP THE *INITIAL* SHOCK...

...BUT MAYBE THESE BABIES CAN DESTROY ALL THE *REVERBIUM* BEFORE IT SPREADS.

CAT?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

FELICIA?! COME IN!

TELL ME YOU'RE CLEAR OF THE FISK BUILDING.

N-NO...

TRAPPED ON THE TOP FLOOR...WITH KINGPIN.

OF COURSE YOU ARE. I'M ON MY WAY!

Outside.

CAPTAIN, IT'S CONFIRMED. THE CLEANING CREW CLEARED OUT EARLIER WHEN AN ALARM SOUNDED.

GOOD. RECOMMENDATIONS, CHIEF?

SHE'S TOO UNSTABLE. I SAY WE PULL EVERYONE BACK TO A SAFER DISTANCE.

AGREED.

CAPTAIN WATANABE! LOOK...

"...IT'S THAT GUY FROM THE HORIZON ROBBERY! *THE HOBGOBLIN!*

"HE'S GOTTA BE BEHIND THIS!

"HE'S DEMOLISHING THE PLACE!"

GOING UP THE COLLAPSING BUILDING--THIS'S *CRAZY*, EVEN FOR ME!

Y'KNOW WHAT'D MAKE WALL-CRAWLING EASIER ABOUT NOW? *WALLS!*

FALLING BODIES THIS WAY!

FELICIA?!

NO, IT'S THE HAND! NOTHING I CAN DO. THEY'RE ALREADY CRUMBLING INTO NINJA-DUST--

--BUT STILL, THOSE ARE *MORE* LIVES ON YOUR HEAD, KINGPIN.

ONE OF THESE DAYS, FISK...

...YOU'RE GONNA GET WHAT'S COMING TO YOU!

EASY, BOSS! ALMOST THERE!

AND *THEN* WHAT, YOU IDIOT?! WHAT IN THE HELL DO YOU THINK *YOU* CAN DO?!

THERE'S *NO* GETTING OUT OF THIS!

THWIP!

CAT!

C'MON! YOU AND ME-- WE'RE BLOWING THIS MALEVOLENT POPSICLE STAND!

AH. WILSON. HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY? I *LOVE* WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THIS SPACE.

NO! NO MORE JOKES! IF THIS IS HOW IT ENDS, YOU CAN SWING AWAY, BUT SHE STAYS!

IF I DO *ONE* LAST THING, IT WILL BE TO SEE YOU *FAIL*--AND TO KNOW IT WAS BY MY HAND.

KRAK

NOT HAPPENING. KNOW WHY?

THAT WAS A LOAD-BEARING COLUMN, FATTY.

NOOO!

FELICIA! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, HOLD TIGHT! I--

DON'T FORGET ME! I CAN'T HANG ON MUCH--

AAAAH

I GOTCHA, BALDY!

GOBLIN!

WHAT A SHAME.

I REALLY LIKED THAT HAT.

MONTANA?

SORRY, BIG GUY. I ONLY GOT TWO HANDS. HE WILL BE MISSED.

BY EVERYTHING BUT THE PAVEMENT.

HA HA HA

JUST *HAD* TO BUILD A STEALTH SUIT.

NOT THE AIRBAG SUIT.

OR THE INDESTRUCTIBLE SUIT.

OOH. TELEPORTATION SUIT. *THAT* WOULDA BEEN NICE!

Hunnh!

TWIP-P-P

FELICIA?!

STAY WITH ME, PARTNER!

MISSION

GOOD CALL, CHIEF.

GONNA TAKE FOREVER TO CLEAR THIS MESS. THAT GOBLIN-GUY'S GOT A LOT TO ANSWER FOR!

IT WASN'T JUST HIM! IT WAS SPIDER-MAN TOO! ARE YOU PEOPLE BLIND?

CAPTAIN? WHATCHA GONNA DO?

RIGHT NOW? NOTHING. SPIDEY'S BEEN A BIG HELP TO MY DIVISION.

AND, LIKE US, IF YOU KNEW *HALF* OF WHAT WILSON FISK WAS UP TO IN THAT TOWER...

...YOU'D REALIZE *WHOEVER* TOOK IT DOWN DID US A *FAVOR*.

YOU OKAY?

YEAH. THANKS TO MY BAD LUCK POWERS.

HUH?!

WHAT? EVERYTHING SHOOK AS KINGPIN WAS ABOUT TO KILL ME. THEN...

...YOU MADE IT UP A DOZEN FALLING STORIES, GOT US OUT, *AND* SPUN A SAFETY NET IN TIME?

PURE LUCK. ERGO: *ME*. YOU'RE WELCOME.

I--YOU-- *GRR--THIS* IS WHY WE'RE NOT DATING.

OH STOP. THIS IS ALL *WIN*.

FISK TOOK A HIT, YOU DESTROYED THAT METAL-STUFF...

...AND I EVEN GOT A LI'L SOUVENIR.

YEAH. SOMETHING TO REMIND ME...

...WE'RE *NEVER* DOING THIS AGAIN!

Hell's Kitchen, Shadowland.

THE HUB OF THE KINGPIN'S CRIMINAL EMPIRE.

TONIGHT WAS NOT ABOUT LOSS, BUT REBIRTH. THE SLOUGHING OFF OF DEAD SKIN TO MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW.

THAT TOWER WAS A FRONT OF RESPECTABILITY, A LIE. THIS IS ALL I NEED NOW. THIS IS MY DESTINY.

GOBLIN, STEP FORWARD.

PSST. GUYS, I THINK SOMEBODY'S GETTIN' THEIR BIG-BOY-PANTS.

OH GREAT AND POWERFUL KINGPIN, I'D LIKE SOME BRAINS, SOME COURAGE...

...AND A PONY.

I AM NOT ONE TO BE INDEBTED TO OTHERS. CONSIDER *THIS* YOUR PAYMENT.

YOU HAVE EARNED A PLACE AT MY TABLE. AND WHEN I NEED YOU, YOU SHALL ACT AS MY RIGHT HAND.

FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE MY HOBGOBLIN. SAY IT.

I'M YOUR HOBGOBLIN.

Later...

HEY, GRAMPS. YOU THE TINKERER?

A CERTAIN, OUT OF THE WAY FIX-IT SHOP.

BEEN EXPECTING YOU. KINGPIN'S NEW BOY, RIGHT?

PLEASE, COME IN. NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR YOU, SIR.

YEAH? WELL, I PLAYED A LITTLE ROUGH WITH SOME OF MY TOYS.

CAN YOU GET 'EM WORKIN' OR NOT? I NEED THIS STUFF.

LOVELY DESIGN. OSBORN, YES? I CAN FIX 'EM. BUT WITH THIS TECH, IT'S GONNA COST YOU...

...A LOT MORE THAN KINGPIN'S PAYING YOU.

GOOD HOBGOBLIN FOOTAGE, URICH.

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT ANOTHER NEWSMAN IN THE FAMILY.

THANKS, ROBBIE. UNCLE BEN.

PHIL? THINK YOU CAN WALK ME THROUGH IT?

TELL ME WHO WAS THERE AND WHO I NEED TO GET QUOTES FROM?

The Daily Bugle.

SURE THING, NORAH. HOW 'BOUT OVER DINNER? YOUR TREAT.

UM... OKAY.

BETTER CALL AND CANCEL WITH RANDY. YEAH, HE WON'T MIND...

GIVING YOU A SMALL BONUS, SON. OUR SITE'S GETTING A LOT OF HITS ALREADY.

IT'S GOOD FOR BUSINESS. AND GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK...

"... TO SEE THIS GUY FOR THE *MENACE* HE TRULY IS."

NOT BAD. NORAH'S FINALLY GIVING ME THE TIME OF DAY. UNCLE BEN'S PROUD. I'M *SOMEBODY* NOW.

JUST GOTTA KEEP KINGPIN HAPPY. KEEP THE TINKERER TINKERING. AND KEEP THE BUGLE MONEY COMING IN.

ALL THESE RESPONSIBILITIES! BUT WITH 'EM, COMES *EVERYTHING* I'VE EVER WANTED. AND POWER.

SO *MUCH POWER!* HA HA HA

Horizon Labs.

EXCELLENT WORK, PETER.

THANKS, MR. MODELL.

YOUR COUNTER-MEASURES FOR THE REVERBIUM WERE INGENIOUS. STILL GLAD WE DIDN'T HAVE TO USE THEM.

TECHNICALLY, I DID. AGAINST HOBBY'S SONIC SCREAM. BUT NO REASON TO TELL THE BOSS THAT.

ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS THAT THE REMAINS OF ALL THE REVERBIUM'S BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR AT THE CRASH SITE...

...AND THAT PARTS OF MY TECH CAN BE ADAPTED TO HORIZON'S NEW NOISE REDUCTION HEADPHONES.

PATENT PENDING. SHOULD RETAIL NEXT CHRISTMAS FOR $39.95.

IT'S OFFICIAL. THIS JOB IS *SO* GONNA WORK FOR ME. MY SPIDER-LIFE IS *FINALLY* PAYING FOR ITSELF. AND THEN SOME.

AND WITH *ALL* MY GEAR HERE IN MY SUPER-SECURE VAULT, FOR *ONCE* MY PETER-PARKER-LIFE IS 100% SPIDER-FREE.

Tribeca. Peter Parker's All-New Apartment.

I'VE NEVER FELT MORE *NAKED* IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

PETE. YOU OKAY?

I'VE BEEN HIDING SPIDEY-STUFF IN MY ROOM SINCE I WAS A SOPHOMORE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

BUT I DID IT--I *BOUGHT* A NEW APARTMENT. MY FIRST APARTMENT. I OWN IT. AND THERE'S NOT A SCRAP OF SPIDEY IN IT *AT ALL.*

HOW DO PEOPLE LIVE LIKE THIS?

YEAH, CARLIE. I'M GOOD.

JUST FEELS WEIRD SAYING IT.

C'MON. END OF YOUR FIRST WEEK.

WE'RE TAKING AUNT MAY AND JAY OUT TO DINNER. REMEMBER? YOU MADE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT...

"...ESPECIALLY ABOUT HOW YOU WERE PICKING UP THE CHECK."

ANOTHER BOTTLE OF OUR FINEST HOUSE RED.

BUT HE HASN'T TOUCHED A DROP.

ARE YOU SURE, PETER.

NO HARM IN CELEBRATING A LITTLE.

HE CAN'T, DEAR. TELL HIM WHY.

AUNT MAY...

SAY IT AGAIN. JUST FOR ME.

I SWEAR TO GOD, THE LOOK ON HER FACE. THAT'S WHEN I FINALLY KNOW...

I CAN'T.

I'VE GOT WORK TOMORROW.

...I FINALLY DID IT. I HIT THE BIG TIME.

End.

Now.

WH-WHERE AM I? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!

YOU'RE UP. AND FORMING COMPLETE SENTENCES. THAT'S VERY PROMISING.

NO APPARENT LOSS OF BRAIN FUNCTIONS. CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?

WAIT! WHO ARE *YOU?!* WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

NAME PLEASE.

GARGAN! MAC GARGAN, DAMMIT! NOW TELL ME WHAT'S--

CORRECT. MACDONALD "MAC" GARGAN. ORIGINALLY THE SCORPION. UNTIL RECENTLY, VENOM.

TH-THAT'S RIGHT. I REMEMBER. THEY TOOK MY OTHER--

--THE SYMBIOTE, AWAY FROM ME...

SHORT-TERM MEMORY'S INTACT. SPLENDID.

NOW LET'S MOVE ON AND TEST YOUR PHYSICAL SKILLS, SHALL WE?

WHIRR-KIK

WHIRR-KIK

BRATTA BRT PKOW PKAH PKAH

GRRRRR

OH, THAT'S IT, PAL. YER IN FOR IT...

THE STING THAT NEVER GOES AWAY

WHAM

'CAUSE YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF!

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ACTUALLY, MR. GARGAN, COLLECTING THAT DATA IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE TESTS.

THAT WAS MY TAIL. I'M-- I'M IN THE SCORPION SUIT AGAIN?!

NO. YOU'RE IN MY SCORPION SUIT. CYBORG UPGRADES, TO BE PRECISE.

BATTLE ARMOR'S HOLDING. EXCELLENT.

YOU COULD A' KILLED ME!

NOT LIKELY. AND IF YOU WERE IN ANY REAL DANGER...

KTAMM

...YOUR SCORPION-SENSE WOULD HAVE KICKED IN.

"SCORPION-SENSE"? WHAT? LIKE SPIDER-MAN'S--

SPIDER-SENSE. CORRECT.

JUST AS A SPIDER CAN FEEL A DISTURBANCE ALONG ITS WEB...

...A SCORPION, IN HIDING, CAN DETECT WHEN CREATURES BRUSH THE HAIRS ATOP ITS PINCERS.

ALL CREATURES IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM HAVE VARIOUS HEIGHTENED SENSES.

NOW YOU CAN TAP INTO YOURS.

ALONG WITH YOUR ENHANCED STRENGTH, SPEED, TAIL, AND CLAWS...

...YOU SHOULD BE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE WEB-SLINGER...

PUNCH

...SHOULD HE CHOOSE TO INTERFERE IN OUR PLANS.

NICE, GARGAN. WELL DONE.

THERE YOU ARE. AND WHATTYA MEAN "*OUR PLANS*"?! I SPENT ***YEARS*** TRAPPED IN ONE A' THESE SUITS--

--AND YOU PUT ME ***BACK INTO ONE!*** TELL ME WHY ***MY*** PLAN SHOULDN'T BE ***KILLING*** YOU ***RIGHT NOW!***

BECAUSE THOSE CYBORG UPGRADES OF MINE ARE THE **ONLY** THINGS KEEPING YOU ALIVE.

WITHOUT THAT TECHNOLOGY-- OR A REPLACEMENT LIKE THE SYMBIOTE-- YOU WOULD DIE, GARGAN.

ALL BECAUSE OF THE EXPERIMENTS J. JONAH JAMESON FORCED ON YOU.

JAMESON!

EXACTLY. THAT WRETCHED EXCUSE FOR A MAN IS THE BANE OF MY EXISTENCE AS WELL.

FINE. YOU WANNA KILL THAT @#%*? COUNT ME IN.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING HIM. NOT THIS TIME. I WANT HIM TO SUFFER.

TO FEEL THE STING THAT NEVER GOES AWAY.

THIS IS WHAT WE SHALL **TAKE** FROM HIM. FRIENDS. FAMILY. HIS SON, WIFE, AND, BEST OF ALL, **HIS FATHER.**

"HIS FATHER"? THE WAY YOU SAID THAT....

IT'S YOU IN THERE. ISN'T IT, SMYTHE?

BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, MR. GARGAN. YOUR FILE SAID YOU WERE QUITE THE PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR IN YOUR DAY.

YES. I'VE UPGRADED ALL MY CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS AS WELL. TRUST ME...

THE WORLD'S NEVER SEEN A **SPIDER-SLAYER** LIKE ME BEFORE.

AND TOGETHER, WE'LL FINALLY HAVE OUR VENGEANCE ON J. JONAH JAMESON!

YOU'RE CRAZY AS EVER, SMYTHE. JAMESON'S THE *MAYOR* NOW.

THE SECURITY AROUND HIM *AND* HIS FAMILY? EVEN THE *TWO* OF US COULDN'T--

TAP TAP TEK

AH. MY APOLOGIES. I DIDN'T EXPLAIN.

HSSSS

IT'S NOT JUST THE TWO OF US. YOU SEE...

"...I'VE BEEN VERY BUSY."

Next Issue: It Begins...

REVENGE OF THE SPIDER-SLAYER
PART ONE: ARMY OF INSECTS

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

TOM BRENNAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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As always, there's a lot happening in Spidey-land.

First and foremost, this issue we bid a fond farewell to the young man I've spent the better part of four years grooming to take my place once I'm called in to appear as Gwen Stacy in the Spider-Man Musical (now open on Broadway!).

That's right, it's time to say goodbye to the Upper West Side's own Tom Brennan, my assistant on Spidey and many other books for the past 19 years. As you may recall, Tom was recently promoted to the almost meaningful position of "Associate Editor" which means more responsibilities. That responsibility comes at a cost, though. And that cost is having to go to work for America's most bearded editor…Marvel Editorial VP Tom Brevoort. It won't be an easy assignment, but at least Brevoort doesn't waste your time being interested in your life.

We wish Brennan well…and it was nice to finally meet him last week. I've never met a guy with four(!) guitar tattoos on his neck.

However with feigned sorrow comes legitimate rejoicing! Replacing Tom on many of my books will be Ellie Pyle (of the Virginia Pyles!) She comes from the theatre world with a long resume of company management and picayune knowledge of grammar. She will be a big part of making my trains run on time (which sounds more personal than I intended) starting with this very issue of Spider-Man.

And of course my own Associate Editor, the seven-and-a-half foot tall Alejandro Arbona, is still here helping guide some of our sister books like *Osborn*, *Carnage!*, and the just announced ongoing series *Venom* by Rick Remender and Tony Moore (This will spin directly out of next month's special issue #654.1)!

Anyway, that's the housecleaning. Time for me to turn up the old soundtrack to *Footloose* and get to your letters on the death of the original; Hobgoblin in #649.

Folks,

I admit that you had me fooled for a second. You had me convinced that Dan Slott is an idiot. You had me convinced that you'd killed off the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin. You had me convinced that you'd made the same mistakes that people keep making with this (otherwise) superb villain.

It was pretty dumb when the Hobgoblin was revealed to be Ned Leeds in ASM #289. Dumb in the sense that one of Spidey's most deadly foes was taken out by some nameless thugs working for the Foreigner (where's he, by the way?). It was pretty dumb to have Jack O'Lantern take over the role. It got worse when Jack-O-Goblin became a real demon. It got worse when Jack-O-Goblin became a cyborg.

It just kept getting worse and worse as the name of The Hobgoblin got dragged through the mire with each subsequent Hobby appearance after ASM #289. One of Spidey's most feared and dangerous foes became a joke. An inept joke. A constant loser.

There was some relief when the (supposed) ORIGINAL Hobgoblin came back and killed Jack-O-Goblin – I doubt anyone shed any real tears there.

BUT...you know, we were then told that the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin was actually Roderick Kingsley and not Ned Leeds. And while I have much love and respect for Roger Stern, we got a story from him that was not his best work, a pretty convoluted story that tried to convince us that Kingsley had been the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin all along. A story involving twin brothers – almost always a bad idea.

But, I went along with it. Hobgoblin was Stern's co-creation. If he says that Kingsley was Hobby, then so be it. And we got treated to a nice 3-parter in Spectacular Spidey (volume 1, I might add) between Norman and Roderick, penned by Stern.

That was twelve or so years ago.

Since then, mostly silence on the Hobby front. We had some guy show up in some mini-series, but most folks don't consider him the original Hobgoblin.

Thus, when I heard the news that Slott was bringing Hobby back to ASM, I was overjoyed. Slott seems to have a true affection and a true sense of respect for Marvel lore and history and continuity. I didn't want someone to bring Hobby back and make a mockery out of him (which is mostly what happened during the 1990's). If the choice was Hobgoblin-done-wrong or no-Hobgoblin, then I was fine without ever seeing him again. And I figured Slott was one of the few who could do Hobgoblin justice because this guy WAS one of Spidey's most feared and dangerous foes. He has a legacy, a legacy that I expected Slott to treat fairly and respectfully.

This does not mean he gets his head cut off by another joke from the 1990's. It does not mean we bring Kingsley back with a teaser appearance in ASM 648, psyche-up any old-school Hobby fans from the 1980's and then have him killed (beheaded no less) in a handful of pages by a 3rd tier character.

No...no...Slott is smarter than that. Better than that. He has more respect and affection for Marvel's past and continuity than to just so candidly repeat the mistakes of the past. We don't just re-kill the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin offhand as we have before and replace him with a loser who could never truly overpower or outsmart one of Spidey's most feared and dangerous foes.

Thus, I'm left to assume that Urich did not kill the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin.

Why? Well, we've been down this road before. The ORIGINAL Hobgoblin was smart enough to avoid death before. Leeds was a plant and Leeds died in his place. He experimented on Lefty Donovan rather than himself. He knew how to stay low. He was smart and had foresight. The ORIGINAL Hobgoblin was a professional.

This guy who gets killed in ASM #649? Who was he then? Obviously not the original Hobgoblin. Could be Kingsley's brother, Daniel, the guy who pretended to be the weak-and-cowardly version of Roderick Kingsley. Could be some other imposter, as Roderick had a habit of using doubles – heck, could be that clown from Secret War for all I know.

Because, see, Urich kills a guy in a Hobgoblin outfit, but that doesn't mean he kills the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin. Oh, he calls him Kingsley, but we never see the face. And even if Slott lost his ever-lovin'-mind and intends for Kingsley to be dead, you guys left a backdoor open. We never see the actual face of the dead guy – just a head with a mask on it. And even if we did see the face, heck, it could have been Daniel.

And it's not like things stick with you guys. Pete and MJ are married for some 20 years, but we wipe that away with some "magic" courtesy of Mephisto. Quentin Beck shoots himself in the head, but recent years implies heavily that our old pal Mysterio is back, hale and healthy (some of those suggestions done by Slott, I might add). Dock Ock is killed by Kaine – raised back by the ninjas. Yes, I just typed that. Aunt May knows Pete is Spidey...no, wait, now she doesn't. Or, even better, Aunt May dies and is buried...no, wait, that was just some ACTRESS hired to pretend she was May, some lady with cancer who wanted to give one last great performance or some such.

So, even if you want me to think that the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin is dead...I won't. Because it just doesn't fit. It's a mistake. Maybe this generation needs its own Hobgoblin. But, if true, give the original a proper send off and don't try to peddle this kind of junk.

Despite all this, I have faith in Slott. He left himself plenty of back-doors to make this "right." Because killing the ORIGINAL Hobgoblin like this...that ain't right

Josh Williams
Via e-mail

LETTER COLUMN CONTINUED AFTER STORY…

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

Big plans on the Horizon for Hobgoblin, Josh, but I'm sorry to say it is looking like ol' Roderick didn't make it. But as you suggest, if you want to wait around a couple decades, something could change. I mean, look at my situation as an example: I thought Brennan was going to stay working in my office for the foreseeable future given the strong working dynamic we cultivated in the Spidey-office over the past four years under intense scrutiny and deadline pressure. But here comes VP of Editorial Tom Brevoort whose management style is apparently finding something that's working great...and then destroying it. Anyway, I have Ellie now who's possibly even better...so I guess the countdown can start for Brevoort to take her away as well.

What was your question?

Dear Spider-Mail,

All right! Now that's what reading a couple of issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man* should feel like!

Slott's really bringing the goods: excellent Spidey action, quips that are actually funny, Parker drama, a mysterious villain in the shadows, the Sinister Six(!), the Bugle's back, a li'l Mac Gargan/Venom/Scorpion subplot brewing. Very nice, fellas.

Humberto's rocking it now and we've got Stefano Caselli and Marcos Martin on deck. It doesn't get much better than that. I enjoyed the heck out of Caselli's pencils on Avengers: Initiative and Mr. Martin's work is just classic.

My only complaint is May and Peter's porn talk. Now don't get me wrong...it's a funny bit. The problem I have is that it's in an issue of *The Amazing Spider-Man*. An issue that is rated 'A' for all ages. I fondly remember poring over issues of *Amazing* as a child in the early 80's. I think it's sad that a kid today can't pick up and read Spidey's flagship title without running into mention of pornography. I guess it would be slightly more understandable if the issue in question were rated T+ or something, but to be advertised as all ages just seems wrong. I know it's almost 2011 and kids are more knowledgeable and& savvy than ever, but porn isn't an all ages topic, is it? I hope not. In my opinion, *The Amazing Spider-Man* should always be legitimately appropriate for all ages. Just my two cents.

Looking forward to what you guys have in store for the book,

Rick Yankosky
Hainesport, NJ

Great letter, Rick. Thanks for writing.

Your concerns on the content are noted. This has always been a sticking point on the Spidey books given the many varied audiences it served. One of the most controversial moments in Spidey's history was back in 1970 when Stan wrote a story dealing with drug abuse that was refused by the Comics Code Authority. It was topical and powerful and led to many fans writing in who felt that a Spidey book wasn't the place for stories like that. We're always confronted with the fact that tastes evolve over time and are different from place to place. What may seem offensive in 2010 may one day seem laughable to a Spidey fan in 2050. There are things said on kids TV shows now that I wouldn't have been able to fathom when I was child.

We do try to not go too far in one direction or another, though and work hard to put out a book you can give to anyone (unless that someone is a VP of Editorial...in which case he worked behind your back to steal your staff with promises of not having to talk about Duran Duran most afternoons. Don't give the book to a guy like that).

Dear Editor,

This is the first time I've ever written to a comic's letter column, but after reading the first issue of ASM Big Time I knew it was time. Thank you so much for a great kick-off in a new direction. Congratulations to Mr. Slott for being THE solo Web-Head and being paired with three great artists.

Is there any chance we could ever see an ASM choose-your-own-adventure? Maybe a new halibut or sturgeon continuity?

Did I mention I'm a big fan of Mr. Slott's?

Thanks from a loyal Web-Head fan,
Jeremy Youndt

In case no one gets this (which would be everyone reading this) that "halibut/sturgeon" reference refers to Dan's almost legendary run as writer of the *Ren and Stimpy* comic book that Marvel put out.

In that run he wrote a *Choose Your Own Adventure* issue that fried his brain to such a point that I was able to work with him.

The fact that I'm even printing this letter means that I will now endure a week of Dan trying to sell me on the idea of writing a *Choose Your Own Adventure* issue of Amazing Spidey that will take him 3X longer than normal to write.

What do you think, gang? Should I let him? Write in and let us know.

I was not a big fan of when Spidey went to 3 times a month, so I dropped the book. But a friend of mine was very adamant about me picking the book back up. He knew I was a huge Spider-Man fan and a huge fan of the Lizard. He told me to read the story arc *Shed* and I fell in love all over again.

So my wife wanted to surprise me and has hunted down almost the entire run of the Spider-Man issues I was missing (I have only 20 left to get.)

Keep up the good work and thank you for proving wrong the idea I could drop this book. Even if it comes out three times a month or two, I will still continue to pick up Spider-Man.

I am a Spidey believer. I couldn't leave him even if I tried.

Derek Davis
Marshville, NC 28103

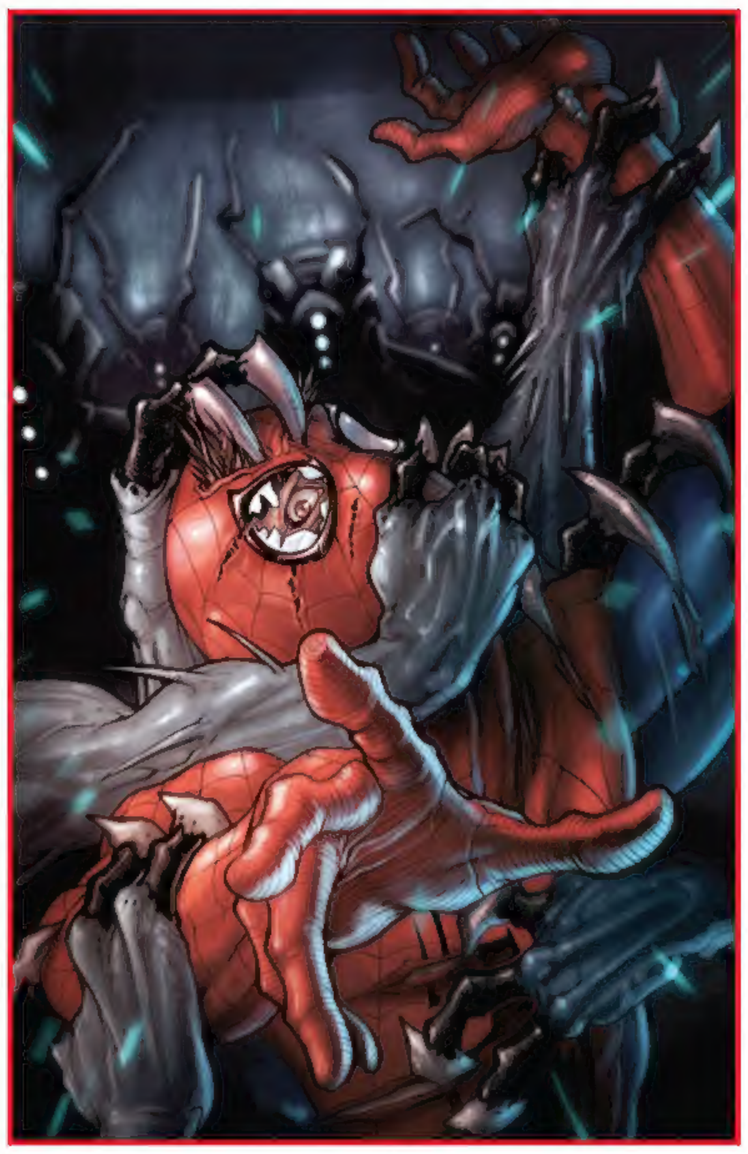
Thanks, Derek, and good luck finding your last twenty comics! Y'know, that number twenty sort of reminds me of the number of other assistants that Brevoort had to choose from in this place instead of grabbing the guy I worked so hard to train. Sort of makes a fella really regret voting for Brevoort in the "Hottest VP of Editorial" contest last month, don't you think?

And with that, we're out of room. Be back here in seven short days for the debut of the awesome art of Stefano Caselli...and the return of The Spider-Slayer!!

Viva Brennan!

Simperin' Steve
12/9/10

NEXT!



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